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ABSTRACT

At the request of the Senate Committee on Veteran's Affairs, the General Accounting Office (GAO) surveyed a representative sample of veterans who had completed flight training or correspondence courses within the last five years to determine whether their full time occupations were related to the training they had received. The GAO's review showed that only about 16 percent of flight-trained veterans and 34 percent of correspondence-trained veterans have full time jobs related directly to their training. Also found was that the employment survey reports submitted to the Veteran's Administration (VA) by vocational technical schools do not show whether most veterans obtained training related employment or to what extent such employment represents the veteran's primary vocational pursuit and major source of occupational income. Based on the findings, the GAO supported the proposed legislation submitted by the VA to terminate GI bill benefits for flight and correspondence training. (JH)

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REPORT BY THE

Comptroller General

OF THE UNITED STATES

GI Bill Benefits For Flight And Correspondence Training Should Be Discontinued

Over 1 billion dollars in educational assistance has been paid by the Veterans Administration to veterans enrolled in flight or correspondence training since the current GI bill was enacted in 1966. However, GAO's review of a random sample of veterans who completed such training during a recent 5-year period showed that only about 16 percent of flight-trained veterans and 34 percent of correspondence-trained veterans have full-time jobs related directly to their training.

Employment survey reports submitted to VA by vocational/technical schools indicate that in general over 50 percent of flight and correspondence course graduates have found training-related employment. However, these reports provide no assurance that most veterans obtained full-time employment in training-related occupations. GAO findings support proposed legislation submitted by VA to terminate GI bill benefits for flight and correspondence training.

The Chairman, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, asked GAO to survey a representative sample of veterans who had completed flight or correspondence courses to determine whether their full-time occupations were related to the training they had received under the GI bill.



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HRD-79-115
AUGUST 24, 1979



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

B-114859

The Honorable Alan Cranston
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In response to your March 21, 1979, letter, we are reporting on the Veterans Administration's flight and correspondence training programs.

Copies of this report are being sent to the Chairmen, Senate and House Committees on Appropriations, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, House Committee on Government Operations, and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. We are also sending copies to the Director, Office of Management and Budget, and the Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Elmer B. Staats". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Comptroller General
of the United States

COMPTROLLER GENERAL'S REPORT
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

GI BILL BENEFITS FOR FLIGHT
AND CORRESPONDENCE TRAINING
SHOULD BE DISCONTINUED

D I G E S T

The Chairman, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, asked GAO to survey a representative sample of GI bill trainees who had completed flight training or correspondence courses within the last 5 years to determine whether their full-time occupations were related to the training they had received.

The request was prompted by proposed legislation submitted by the Veterans Administration (VA) to the Congress to terminate GI bill benefits for flight and correspondence training programs. VA believes that, because these two programs have not achieved their intended purpose--they did not lead to continuing substantial employment for most trainees--and because of the potential for abuse within the programs, they should be terminated. (See ch. 1.)

Hundreds of millions of dollars in VA educational assistance has been paid to veterans enrolled in flight training programs since the current GI bill was amended in 1967 to include such training. However, GAO's review of a random sample of veterans who completed their flight training from 1972 through 1976 disclosed that only about 16 percent had full-time jobs directly related to this training. This is based on occupational data on 1977 Federal income tax returns (the latest year accessible at the time of GAO's fieldwork) and Federal Aviation Administration records as of June 1979.

In addition, the number of veterans who have already received flight training under the GI bill substantially exceeds the number of pilot jobs presently available or expected to be available through 1985. (See ch. 2.)

VA has also paid hundreds of millions of dollars for correspondence training for veterans since the current GI bill was enacted in 1966. However, GAO's review of a random sample of veterans who completed six selected correspondence courses from 1972 through 1976 showed that only about 34 percent had full-time jobs directly related to the training, based on occupational data on 1977 Federal income tax returns. In addition, the overall completion rate for correspondence courses is less than 50 percent. (See ch. 3.)

Congressional concern that vocational objective courses may not always be of adequate quality and intensity to prepare the trainee for employment in the chosen occupation led to the establishment of a 50-percent job placement requirement for VA-funded vocational/technical courses. Employment survey reports submitted to VA by vocational/technical schools indicate that in general over 50 percent of flight and correspondence course completers obtain training-related employment.

However, these employment survey reports do not show whether most veterans obtained training-related employment or to what extent such employment represents the veteran's primary vocational pursuit and major source of occupational income. This is because (1) the reports cover all students, and most students do not appear to be veterans, (2) related employment is not limited to full-time jobs, and (3) only a small percentage of students beginning correspondence courses are actually included in the computation of the employment rate, primarily because of low completion rates. (See ch. 4.)

In summary, GAO's review supported VA's assertions that flight and correspondence training programs have not achieved their intended purpose of providing continuing substantial employment for most trainees.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONGRESS

The Congress should adopt VA's legislative proposal to terminate GI bill benefits for flight and correspondence training. However, if these programs are not eliminated, other legislative action should be taken to modify and clarify the 50-percent job placement rule to

- include a minimum acceptable completion rate for vocational objective courses,
- require that 50 percent of the veterans and other eligible persons who complete vocational objective courses obtain employment in the occupational category for which training was received, and
- require that such employment constitute the veteran's primary vocational pursuit and major source of occupational income. (See ch. 5.)

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VA officials responsible for these programs reviewed this report and generally concurred with it.

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ABBREVIATIONS

FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
GAO	General Accounting Office
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
VA	Veterans Administration

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

On March 21, 1979, the Chairman, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, asked us to survey a representative sample of GI bill trainees who had completed flight training and correspondence courses within the last 5 years to determine whether their full-time occupations were related to the training they had received.

The request was prompted by proposed legislation submitted by the Veterans Administration (VA) to terminate GI bill benefits for flight and correspondence training. VA had proposed similar legislative action for fiscal years 1977, 1978, and 1979, but the Committee declined to consider those proposals favorably.

VA's latest proposal was based on its July 1978 report, "Study of Vocational Objective Programs Approved for the Enrollment of Veterans," which was mandated by section 204 of Public Law 94-502. The study was to place particular emphasis on determining whether the so-called "50-percent job placement" criterion was effective or not. According to VA, the study showed that (1) flight and correspondence training programs had not achieved their intended purpose in that they did not lead to continuing substantial employment for most trainees and (2) the courses tended to serve avocational, recreational, or personal enrichment rather than basic re-adjustment and employment objectives. VA concluded that, because the programs had not achieved their intended purpose and because of the potential for abuse within the programs, they should be terminated.

In the Committee's judgment, however, VA's study did not present sufficient justification to terminate GI bill benefits for flight or correspondence training. In addition, the Committee expressed deep concern over certain VA assertions and conclusions in this and an earlier VA study on correspondence training.

Our review was made to test the validity and accuracy of certain VA assertions and conclusions used to justify its legislative proposal to terminate GI bill benefits for flight and correspondence training.

CONGRESSIONAL INTENT AND THE
"50-PERCENT JOB PLACEMENT"
REQUIREMENT

A "program of education" for which educational assistance may be paid under the GI bill is defined in 38 U.S.C. 1652(b) as a course of study or training which is generally accepted as necessary to fulfill requirements for the attainment of a predetermined and identified educational, professional, or vocational objective. Flight and correspondence training are generally classified as "vocational objective" programs.

Before enactment of the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, VA regulations stated that a vocational objective course could be authorized as a program of education if graduates of the course generally qualified for employment in the stated job objective. If graduates could not obtain employment in the community where the vocational course was given because they were not qualified, the course should not be approved. VA attempted to ensure compliance with this requirement by instructing State approving agencies to require a school to demonstrate that a "substantial" portion of its students who completed the course had in fact obtained employment in the occupation for which the course trained them.

The Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 amended section 1673(a)(2) of title 38 to prohibit the payment of GI bill benefits for any course with a vocational objective

"* * * unless the eligible veteran or the institution offering such course submits justification showing that at least one-half of the persons who completed such course over the preceding two-year period, and who are not unavailable for employment, have been employed in the occupational category for which the course was designed to provide training * * *."

In commenting on the need for this amendment, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs noted in Senate Report 93-907 that veterans frequently complained that they were unable to obtain jobs in the occupation for which they were trained. According to the Committee, the complaints were generally centered around the course content, the course quality, the instructional materials, and the fact that completion of the course was not generally recognized by industry as meeting the vocational requirements for the occupation. The Committee

added that various studies and investigations of the proprietary vocational and correspondence school industry confirmed the veterans' complaints.

Although the revised 50-percent job placement requirement in section 1673(a)(2) refers to "persons who completed such course," the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs apparently intended that the provision apply only to veterans completing the course. Senate Report 93-907 stated on page 67 that:

"The new provision in the reported bill would thus require evidence that at least half of the veterans completing the course within the most recent two-year period were in fact employed in a specific occupational category for which the course was designed to provide training." (Underscoring added.)

In addition, the conferees stated in their conference report on the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 that their intent was that the 50-percent job placement requirement "be interpreted in light of the very specific discussion and examples contained in the Senate committee report (No. 93-907) on pages 64 through 72." Nevertheless, as discussed in chapter 4 of this report, VA has interpreted the requirement to apply to all course completers, including nonveterans.

Finally, it appears that the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs (and the House conferees by reference in the conference report noted above) intended that the qualifying employment used in the 50-percent job placement computation be full-time rather than part-time employment. The Senate report indicates that the Committee viewed part-time employment as avocational in nature and that, although there was nothing intrinsically wrong with courses having avocational or recreational objectives, payment for such courses was not authorized by title 38.

ENROLLMENT LEVELS AND VA FUNDING OF FLIGHT AND CORRESPONDENCE TRAINING

In recent years there has been a significant decline in the number of participants enrolled in and the total educational assistance payments made under VA's various education programs, including flight and correspondence training. Enrollment and cost data for veterans in flight and correspondence training for fiscal years 1972-78 were as follows:

<u>Fiscal year</u>	<u>Flight training</u>		<u>Correspondence training</u>	
	<u>No. of veterans enrolled</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>No. of veterans enrolled</u>	<u>Cost</u>
		(millions)		(millions)
1972	35,970	\$36.6	212,306	\$ 91.0
1973	36,718	33.8	333,528	97.2
1974	38,567	45.9	340,481	113.3
1975	38,355	47.6	297,840	102.7
1976	36,486	51.1	228,093	95.6
Transition quarter	21,664	14.2	125,124	18.9
1977	39,990	80.7	82,926	34.5
1978	20,389	64.7	41,963	13.2

VA estimates that, although enrollment levels will continue to decline, terminating these programs would save about \$217 million over the next 5 years.

PRIOR GAO REPORTS SUPPORT VA'S PROPOSAL

As early as 1972, our reports highlighted difficulties with correspondence and flight training courses. For example, in March 1972 1/ we reported that 75 percent of the veterans taking correspondence courses were not completing them. In August 1976 2/ we reported that only 28.1 percent of the correspondence-trained veterans and 48.7 percent of the flight-trained veterans responding to questionnaires said that their training was extremely useful. The other veterans indicated that their training was moderately useful or less than moderately useful. In addition, only 20.1 percent of the correspondence-trained veterans and 40.7 percent of the flight-trained veterans said their training was related to their employment.

1/ "Most Veterans Not Completing Correspondence Courses--More Guidance Needed from the Veterans Administration" (B-114859, Mar. 22, 1972).

2/ Letter report to Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on Responses to Questionnaires on Operation and Effect of Educational Assistance Programs Provided by VA (H&D-76-158, Aug. 11, 1976).

SCOPE OF REVIEW

We made our review at VA's central and regional offices in Washington, D.C. We spoke with agency officials and reviewed applicable laws, regulations, statistics, and documents. In addition, we visited a flight training school and a correspondence school to obtain an overview of their programs and to review their employment survey questionnaires.

VA provided a statistical sample of 1,000 veterans who had completed flight training or one of six selected correspondence courses during the 5-year period 1972 through 1976. The sample was selected by VA, at our request, using statistically valid selection techniques. (See app. I for sample selection methodology.) We then obtained from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) the occupational data these individuals reported on their 1977 1/ Federal income tax returns. 2/ We also obtained occupational and other relevant data from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on veterans in our sample who had completed a flight training program. In addition, we reviewed prior VA and GAO studies on flight and correspondence training under the GI bill.

1/The latest year of accessible tax returns at the time of our review was 1977. Therefore, we included in our sample veterans who had completed training from 1972 through 1976.

2/We recognize that the occupation entered on an income tax return may be somewhat ambiguous as to the actual type of work done and the relationship of that work to the vocational objective training received under the GI bill. However, we believe this information is a relatively objective, bias-free indicator of an individual's primary vocational pursuit and major source of occupational income (considered full-time employment for the purposes of this audit).

CHAPTER 2

MOST VETERANS WHO COMPLETED FLIGHT TRAINING DO NOT WORK IN TRAINING-RELATED FULL-TIME JOBS

Hundreds of millions of dollars in VA educational assistance has been paid to veterans enrolled in flight training programs since the current GI bill was amended in 1967 to include such training. However, our review of a random sample of veterans who completed their flight training during a recent 5-year period disclosed that only about 16 percent have full-time jobs directly related to this training. In addition, the number of veterans who have already received flight training under the GI bill substantially exceeds the number of pilot jobs presently available or expected to be available through 1985.

IRS OCCUPATIONAL DATA SHOW THAT A SMALL PORTION OF FLIGHT-TRAINED VETERANS ARE FULL-TIME PILOTS

As discussed in appendix I, VA provided us with a statistical sample of 250 veterans who had completed flight training during the 5-year period 1972 through 1976. We gave the names and social security numbers of these veterans to IRS officials, who agreed to extract and summarize the data contained in the occupation block of the veterans' 1977 Federal income tax returns. IRS officials said that, because of privacy considerations, they could not give us the names, social security numbers, or current addresses associated with each occupation. Accordingly, we were not able to contact the veterans for more detailed information or to confirm occupations. Instead, we received a summary list of occupations reported on the tax returns and the number of veterans in each occupational category. IRS found tax returns with occupational data for 188 (75.2 percent) of the sampled veterans. These returns were considered usable. Returns were considered unusable if (1) no occupation was given (5.6 percent), (2) the tax return could not be located (16.0 percent), or (3) the individual was on active military duty (3.2 percent).

The following table summarizes occupational information obtained from IRS for usable returns for our sample. It shows that only 16.0 percent of the veterans had "pilot" or other training-related occupations, based on information in the occupation block of their tax returns.

Occupations Provided by IRS for
Flight Training Sample

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Number having listed occupation</u>	<u>Based on usable returns</u>	
		<u>Percent working in field trained</u>	<u>Sampling error at 95-percent confidence level</u>
Pilot occupations:			
Pilot	24	12.8	4.7
Flight instructor, air freight/ aerial applicator	3	1.6	1.8
Flight inspector, flight investigator	<u>3</u>	<u>1.6</u>	1.8
	<u>30</u>	<u>16.0</u>	5.2
Nonpilot occupations:			
Engineer	16	8.5	4.0
Salesman, sales manager	14	7.4	3.7
Dentist, physician, attorney	10	5.3	3.2
Teacher	6	3.2	2.5
Executive	6	3.2	2.5
Aircraft mechanic	6	3.2	2.5
Civil service (includes 2 FAA employees)	6	3.2	2.5
Other nonpilot occupa- tions with fewer than 6 veterans employed in each	<u>94</u>	<u>50.0</u>	7.1
	<u>158</u>	<u>84.0</u>	5.2
Total usable returns	<u>188</u>	<u>100.0</u>	

FAA DATA ARE CONSISTENT WITH IRS DATA

To fly for hire, a person must have both (1) a commercial or airline transport airman certificate and (2) a valid first- or second-class medical certificate. FAA gave us information on airman and medical certificates currently held by the 250 flight-trained veterans in our sample. We also obtained the occupational and relevant flying data shown on their medical certificate applications on file with FAA as

of June 1979. The certificate data were then used to determine how many of the veterans in our sample had the necessary combination of certificates to enable them to fly for hire. The medical application data were used to determine occupations and types of flying listed by the veterans.

The types of airman and medical certificates issued by FAA are as follows:

Airman Certificates

<u>Type</u>	<u>Required for</u>
Airline transport pilot	Pilot of scheduled and unscheduled airlines.
Commercial pilot	Corporate or business pilot, copilot of commercial airlines, crop dusting, etc.
Private pilot	Pilot's personal flying; may carry nonpaying persons (cannot be used to fly for hire).

Medical Certificates

<u>Class</u>	<u>Required for</u>
First class	Airline transport pilot; good for 6 months, reverts to second class 6 months after issuance.
Second class	Commercial pilot; good for 12 months, reverts to third class 12 months after issuance.
Third class	Private pilot (cannot be used to fly for hire); good for 24 months.

We matched FAA records of airman certificates and medical certificates with our sample to find out how many of these veterans met the minimum requirements to fly for hire. As shown in the following tables, 86.0 percent of the veterans in our sample had the necessary airman certificate to fly for hire (airline transport or commercial), and 46.8 percent had the necessary medical certificate to fly for hire (first or second class), as shown in the following tables.

Airman Certificates for Sample of
Veterans Who Completed Flight Training

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Sampling error at 95-percent confidence level</u>
Airline transport pilot	19	7.6	3.3
Commercial pilot	196	78.4	5.1
Private pilot	33	13.2	4.2
No record	<u>2</u>	<u>.8</u>	1.1
Total	<u>250</u>	<u>100.0</u>	

Medical Certificates for Sample of
Veterans Who Completed Flight Training

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Sampling error at 95-percent confidence level</u>
First class	18	7.2	3.2
Second class	99	39.6	6.0
Third class	56	22.4	5.1
Pending	2	.8	1.1
Expired	43	17.2	4.6
No medical record	<u>a/32</u>	<u>12.8</u>	4.1
Total	<u>250</u>	<u>100.0</u>	

a/This differs from the 33 on the following tables because for 1 person, who had received a second-class medical certificate in 1972 (now expired), no medical certificate application data (basis of the following tables) were available.

By matching both types of certificates held by each veteran, we found that only 44.8 percent had the necessary combination of airman and medical certificates to fly for hire. However, our analysis of other data on medical certificate applications showed that only about 16 percent actually did so. The medical certificate applications contain data on the type of flying (whether for business or pleasure), occupation, total civilian and military flying hours, and civilian and military flying hours within the last 6 months.

The following tables summarize the data we obtained from the medical certificate applications on file with FAA as of June 1979 for the 250 veterans in our sample. The first table shows that only 15.6 percent had aeronautical occupations directly related to their flight training. This percentage is consistent with the 16.0 percent with "pilot" occupations based on IRS data. The second table shows that about 57 percent of the veterans were only flying for pleasure and another 13 percent did not have the necessary medical certificate to enable them to fly for either business or pleasure.

Occupation of Veterans Who
Completed Flight Training

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Sampling error at 95-percent confidence level</u>
Pilot	32	12.8	4.1
Flight instructor	6	2.4	1.9
Flight engineer	<u>1</u>	<u>.4</u>	.8
	39	15.6	4.5
Aeronautical ground support occupation	9	3.6	2.3
Nonaeronautical occupation or not given	169	67.6	5.7
No medical record	<u>33</u>	<u>13.2</u>	4.2
Total	<u>250</u>	<u>100.0</u>	

Type of Flying Indicated by Veterans
Who Completed Flight Training

<u>Type of flying</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Sampling error at 95-percent confidence level</u>
Business:			
Aeronautical occupation	<u>a/39</u>	15.6	4.5
Nonaeronautical occupation with flying in pre- vious 6 months:			
Over 60 hours	10	4.0	2.4
Under 60 hours	21	8.4	3.4
Business and pleasure	5	2.0	1.7
Pleasure	142	56.8	6.1
No medical record	<u>33</u>	<u>13.2</u>	4.2
Total	<u>b/250</u>	<u>100.0</u>	

a/Includes 18 veterans with military flying hours.

b/Includes 47 veterans with military flying hours.

FAA did not have specific data on the extent to which veterans in the sample were actually employed full time as pilots or in other training-related occupations. However, we were able to combine the data from airman and medical certificates and medical certificate applications for the sampled veterans to estimate the number whose primary vocational pursuit was directly related to the flight training. We considered veterans to be full-time pilots if they

1. had a commercial or airline transport pilot certificate and a first- or second-class medical certificate,
2. indicated that their primary type of flying was for business,
3. had an aeronautical occupation (flying), and
4. had flown over 60 hours in the 6 months before applying for their most recent medical certificate.

After applying these criteria to the sample, we found that only 27 (10.8 percent) of the 250 veterans could be classified as full-time pilots. The 27 full-time pilots had flown over 8,700 hours and had averaged 324 hours each in the 6 months before their most recent medical certificate applications. For 14 other veterans, the data were either incomplete or inadequate for determining whether they could be classified as full-time pilots. Even if all 14 were assumed to be full-time pilots, the percentage of sampled veterans who could be classified as full-time pilots would increase to only 16.4 percent. Again, this is consistent with the occupational data we obtained from IRS. There were two veterans for whom FAA had no records. The other 207 veterans (82.8 percent) were not employed as full-time pilots.

NUMBER OF PILOTS TRAINED UNDER GI BILL EXCEEDS AVAILABLE JOBS

In its July 1978 report to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on programs with vocational objectives, VA said it had paid to train two pilots for every pilot job in general aviation. Department of Labor statistics also indicate that VA has trained more pilots than there are pilot jobs. From August 1967 through June 1976, VA paid for flight training for 113,475 veterans. ^{1/} However, the 1978-79 edition of the Department of Labor's "Occupational Outlook Handbook" reports that only about 83,000 civilian pilots worked full time in 1976. About half of these worked for the commercial airlines. Also, most pilots hired by the airlines in recent years have been trained in the military. ^{2/}

Pilot jobs are expected to increase in the next 5 years. The Department of Labor's "Occupational Projections and Training Data" predicts 110,000 employed pilots in 1985--an increase of 27,000 over 1976 pilot employment figures. However, even if all these predicted jobs were filled by VA flight-trained veterans, more than this number have already been flight trained at VA expense (135,793 had received flight training under the current GI bill through September 1978).

^{1/}For our sample of veterans completing flight training from 1972 to 1976, only 2 of the 188 (1 percent) with nonmilitary occupations shown on their 1977 Federal income tax returns were retired. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that almost all veterans who took flight training under the current GI bill are still in the job force.

^{2/}"Aviation Week and Space Technology," Vol. 109, No. 17 (Oct. 23, 1978), p. 139.

CHAPTER 3

MOST VETERANS WHO COMPLETED

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES DO NOT WORK

IN TRAINING-RELATED FULL-TIME JOBS

VA has paid hundreds of millions of dollars for correspondence training of veterans since the current GI bill was enacted in 1966. However, a random sample of veterans who completed six selected correspondence courses from 1972 through 1976 showed that most do not have full-time jobs directly related to the training. In addition, the overall completion rate for correspondence courses is less than 50 percent.

LESS THAN HALF OF THE VETERANS ARE EMPLOYED IN FIELD RELATED TO COURSE

At our request, VA selected a sample of 750 veterans who had completed one of six selected correspondence courses from 1972 through 1976 (125 veterans per course). (See app. I for details on sample methodology.) The courses selected were those taken most often by veterans, according to VA's August 1976 study on correspondence training under the GI bill. IRS located 1977 Federal income tax returns with nonmilitary occupations for 562 (74.9 percent) of the 750 veterans in the sample. The other 25.1 percent were either not located (11.3 percent), had no occupation entry (7.8 percent), or were in the military (6.0 percent).

The table on the following page summarizes the occupational data obtained from IRS on the sample of correspondence-trained veterans for each of the courses and for all six courses combined. The table shows a combined percentage for those working in a job directly related to their training of 33.5 percent using a liberal interpretation of job relatedness and 26.7 percent using a less liberal interpretation. For only one course was the percentage working in a job related to training over 50 percent. This course was real estate and insurance for which, using a liberal interpretation, we counted all persons having "salesman," "sales manager," or "sales representative" in the occupation block of their tax form as being in a training-related job. Since we did not have access to the tax returns, we could neither tell what type of sales these people were involved in nor try to get more information such as employer's name or type of business, which might have aided us in classifying these people.

Course number	Course title	Number for which IRS had occupa- tional data (less military)	Veterans working in training- related occupations		Sampling error at 95-percent confidence level
			Number	Percent	
311	Electronic technicians	93	25	26.9	9.1
427	Real estate and insurance:				
	Including salesmen	100	56	56.0	9.9
	Excluding salesmen	100	36	36.0	9.5
510	Air-conditioning and refrigeration	110	29	26.4	8.3
553	Electronic and other communication mech- anics and repairmen:				
	Including engineers	94	42	44.7	10.2
	Excluding engineers	94	24	25.5	9.0
571	Automobile or motor vehicle mechanics and repairmen	88	17	19.3	8.4
629	Heavy equipment operation (combination residency and correspondence course)	77	33	42.9	11.3
All six above using liberal inter- pretation (including salesmen for course 427 and engineers for course 553)		562	202	a/33.5	4.3
All six above using less liberal interpretation (excluding salesmen for course 427 and engineers for course 553)		562	164	a/26.7	4.1

a/This percentage is a weighted average for the six courses.

In commenting on these statistics, VA officials noted that some of the veterans reported by GAO as working in a training-related occupation may have already been employed in that field prior to taking the course. They said it was common for veterans to take correspondence courses under the GI bill in occupational categories for which they were already employed or otherwise qualified even though this was prohibited by title 38, United States Code.

A recent VA telephone survey provided additional evidence that veterans are not using their correspondence training in full-time jobs. VA's Office of Audit surveyed a sample of veterans who had completed one of three courses to find out how they had used the skills they had acquired. VA's audit report was still in draft at the time of our fieldwork. However, we looked at the questionnaires used to collect the data.

The following table summarizes the job data we obtained from the VA telephone survey. Training used in full-time jobs includes all persons who said that the skill(s) they had learned from the course was directly or closely related to their present job. Also included under full time were veterans who said their present jobs involve "a high degree of use of the skills." The only course showing over 50 percent use of training in the veteran's full-time job was the truck driving course. However, this combined residency and correspondence course is not a "true" correspondence course.

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number of veterans contacted</u>	<u>Training used in job</u>		<u>Training not used in job</u>
		<u>Full time</u>	<u>Part time</u>	
		----- (percent) -----		
Locksmith	81	18.5	7.4	74.1
Truck driving	26	57.7	3.8	38.5
Photography	16	31.3	37.4	31.3

VA also asked veterans what prompted them to take the course. Reasons the veterans could cite included career goal, vague career goal, purely interest, and other. The reason "purely interest" was cited as motivation for taking training by 41.9 percent of those who had taken the locksmith course, 7.7 percent who had taken truck driving, and 18.8 percent who had taken photography. The reason "career goal" was cited as motivation for taking the training by 30.6 percent of those who had taken the locksmith course, 84.6 percent who had taken truck driving, and 31.3 percent who had taken photography.

COMPLETION RATES FOR CORRESPONDENCE
COURSES ARE GENERALLY LOW

In an August 1976 report to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, VA cited relatively low completion rates for correspondence courses as part of its support for stating that "it is possible to infer that correspondence training is the least beneficial of all types of training so far as pursuit of an occupational goal is concerned."

Completion rates for correspondence courses have been computed using a number of different data sources. However, these different sources all show the average completion rate for correspondence courses to be below 50 percent. The data sources used include (1) GAO questionnaires to veterans who took correspondence courses, (2) VA's data file on veterans showing courses taken and payments made, and (3) Occupational Graduate Employment Reports submitted to VA by vocational/technical schools.

Our 1972 report disclosed a 25-percent completion rate for correspondence courses, based on replies to questionnaires we sent to 1,380 persons selected at random from VA's records of veterans enrolled in correspondence courses from June 1966 through June 1970.

VA computed completion rates for correspondence courses for 1973 to 1976 using its computer data file on veterans. The computation was based on certain criteria, including that veterans counted must have had their most recent training by correspondence. Persons having completed all course lessons were considered completers. Persons who had not completed all lessons and for whom at least 7 months had elapsed without receipt of a reimbursement voucher were considered dropouts. The completion rate was computed by dividing the number of completers by the total number of completers and dropouts. The completion rates as of December 31 for these veterans and service personnel who trained in correspondence schools were as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Completion rate</u>
	(percent)
1973	38.8
1974	41.2
1975	39.9
1976	39.3

In an August 1976 report 1/ on Occupational Graduate Employment Reports submitted by vocational/technical schools, VA reported that:

"The average completion rate for correspondence courses is substantially lower than the average rate for either flight training courses or all vocational courses combined (45.2 percent versus 61.0 percent and 59.1 percent, respectively). [GAO note: 58.2 percent of correspondence courses had completion rates less than 50 percent.] About one of five correspondence courses are considered to be out-of-line. [GAO note: 20.9 percent had completion rates less than 20 percent.] This is more than twice as many, proportionally, as flight training courses or all vocational courses combined."

Since available studies of correspondence course completion rates covered only periods through December 1976, we analyzed the employment survey reports for the 1977 survey 2/ to obtain information on recent correspondence completion rates. VA reported an overall completion rate of 52.8 percent for all vocational/technical courses (includes both residency and correspondence courses) in a summary of the 1977 survey reports submitted through June 1978. Based on our analysis of employment survey reports submitted by 62 noncollege degree correspondence schools to VA as of June 1979, the overall completion rate for correspondence courses was 32.8 percent for the 159,242 persons who entered training. These were the 62 schools listed by VA as active, non-college degree correspondence schools as of April 1979. The combined rate for the six courses we reviewed in detail was 31.7 percent for the 44,763 persons who entered training. Individual completion rates for the six courses were as follows:

1/"An Analysis of the Fifty Percent Employment Criterion for VA Approved Vocational Courses, 1975 Survey."

2/Occupational Graduate Employment Reports from vocational/technical schools submitted to VA for the 2-year period ended in 1977.

<u>Course number</u>	<u>Course title</u>	<u>Number who entered training</u>	<u>Number who completed</u>	<u>Completion rate</u> (percent)
311	Electronic technicians	16,633	2,590	15.6
427	Real estate and insurance	1,874	624	33.3
510	Air-conditioning and refrigeration	6,113	3,230	52.8
553	Electronic and other communication mechanics and repairmen	10,432	3,264	31.3
571	Automobile or motor vehicle mechanics and repairmen	9,359	4,179	44.7
629	Heavy equipment operation (combination correspondence and residency course)	352	315	89.5
All 6 above		44,763	14,202	31.7

Our analysis of a VA computer run summarizing 1977 employment survey reports submitted to VA by June 1978 showed that a much lower percentage of correspondence schools than residency schools have completion rates above 50 percent. Of the 79 employment survey reports for the 1977 survey submitted to VA by nondegree correspondence schools through June 1978, only 10.1 percent showed completion rates of 50 percent or more. However, the 259 employment survey reports from residency vocational/technical schools showed that 52.5 percent of the vocational objective courses had a completion rate of at least 50 percent.

Thus, all the data we reviewed showed low rates of completion for correspondence courses as opposed to other VA-sponsored education. Overall correspondence completion rates were around 30 to 40 percent. However, the completion rate

for VA's entire educational program for veterans was over 50 percent. Clearly other types of training have higher rates of completion.

CHAPTER 4

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORTS PROVIDE NO ASSURANCE THAT MOST VETERANS OBTAIN FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT IN TRAINING-RELATED OCCUPATIONS

As discussed in chapter 1, the Congress enacted a 50-percent job placement requirement for vocational objective training courses because of repeated complaints by veterans that they were not able to obtain training-related jobs after completing such courses. According to the employment survey reports VA uses to monitor compliance with this requirement, most flight and correspondence course completers obtain training-related employment.

However, these reports do not show whether most veterans obtained training-related employment or to what extent such employment represented the veterans' primary vocational pursuit and major source of occupational income. The following factors limit the usefulness of the employment survey reports in making such determinations:

- Most students enrolled in flight and correspondence courses do not appear to be veterans.
- Related employment is not limited to full-time jobs.
- Only a small percentage of the students who enter training are included in the employment computation for correspondence courses, particularly because of the large number of persons who do not complete the courses.

VA MONITORING OF THE 50-PERCENT JOB PLACEMENT REQUIREMENT

To monitor compliance with the 50-percent job placement requirement, VA requires vocational/technical schools to survey their course completers for a specific 2-year period about their employment. In most cases the first survey covered from March 1973 to February 1975; however, some schools submitted reports for a slightly later 2-year period. The most recent survey generally covered the 2-year period ended in February 1977.

Vocational/technical schools use VA Form 22-8722, Occupational Graduate Employment Questionnaire (see app. II) to

survey their course completers. The survey results are summarized by the schools on VA Form 22-8723, Occupational Graduate Employment Report (see app. III), and then submitted to VA for review.

MOST STUDENTS NOT VETERANS

Data from a review by VA's Office of Audit indicate that most students taking courses for which employment survey reports are submitted to VA are not veterans. Of a total of 517 students who took courses at eight flight schools reviewed by VA's Office of Audit, only 105 (20.3 percent) were veterans. Correspondence schools were not included in the Office of Audit's review. However, we reviewed Occupational Graduate Employment Questionnaires submitted by students for one correspondence school. We identified 193 graduates who indicated that their occupations were related to the training received. Of the 193 graduates, only 71 (36.8 percent) were veterans. A school official told us that most of their students were not veterans. Because of the relatively small percentage of veterans included in total course enrollments, employment survey reports showing greater than 50-percent related employment provide no assurance that most veterans are being employed in the field in which they are trained.

RELATED EMPLOYMENT NOT LIMITED TO FULL-TIME JOBS

The law does not specify whether employment counted in the 50-percent job placement computation on employment survey reports must be full time. In its July 1978 report, VA stated that schools--especially flight schools--have used this lack of definition to achieve relatively high placement ratios. For example, flight schools have included graduates hired as part-time flight instructors in computing the percentage of graduates placed in training-related employment. In a March 1979 letter proposing termination of VA-funded flight training, VA stated that "flight school graduates have been quick to accept very limited, part-time employment to get free or reduced rate flying rather than to seek professional employment."

We were not able to verify the accuracy of VA's statements; however, it appears that both flight and correspondence schools may be using a high percentage of part-time employment in their employment survey reports. According to VA statistics, 93.3 percent of all employment survey reports submitted by flight schools and 89.1 percent of reports submitted by correspondence schools showed that

over 50 percent of the graduates (veterans and nonveterans) from 1973 to 1975 had related employment. However, according to 1977 Federal income tax returns, only 16 percent of the flight-trained veterans and only about 34 percent of the correspondence-trained veterans we sampled had full-time jobs related to their training. In addition, VA's Office of Audit's limited telephone survey of veterans completing selected correspondence courses showed that for one course much of the related employment was only part time. For the photography course, only 31 percent of the veterans completing the course said they had full-time training-related jobs, while 38 percent said they had only part-time related work. The combined full- and part-time employment percentage (69 percent) exceeds 50 percent, even though most of the related employment was only part time.

SMALL PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS
INCLUDED IN EMPLOYMENT COMPUTATION
FOR CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 1673, the 50-percent job placement computation is to be based on "persons who completed such course * * * and who are not unavailable for employment * * *." VA's implementing guidelines exclude course completers from the computation if they

- were on active duty in the military,
- could not be reached by the school,
- did not respond to the school's questionnaire,
- were disabled and unable to work,
- continued training after graduation,
- took the course for personal or recreational reasons (applies only to graduates who did not use VA benefits),
- were pregnant and thus foregoing a new career,
- had changed marital status and were thus foregoing a new career,
- were unwilling to relocate to a new area to find work, or
- had other valid reasons.

Our review of employment survey reports submitted to VA by 62 noncollege degree correspondence schools 1/ for the 1977 survey 2/ showed that only 7.2 percent (11,402 of 159,242) of those beginning the courses covered by the employment survey reports were included in the computation of the employment rate.

Only 24,634 (15.5 percent) of the 159,242 who entered correspondence training at the 62 schools were sent a copy of the survey questionnaire. The main reason for this low percentage was that those not completing courses were excluded in the computation. Of 159,242 students beginning courses at these schools, 107,042 (67 percent) did not finish them and thus were not included in the employment computation. Some were excluded because they were on active military duty. Others were excluded because there were over 300 course completers to be surveyed and sampling was used. Only 11,402 (46.3 percent) of the 24,634 surveyed were included in computation of the employment rate. About one-fifth (20.7 percent) of those surveyed were excluded for one of the reasons discussed above (other than active military, unable to contact, or no response). The rest of the surveyed group could not be contacted or did not respond.

The table on the following page gives percentages for each of the six correspondence courses we reviewed. The only course with a high percentage of those who began the course also being included in the employment rate computation was heavy equipment operation. However, this is a combined correspondence and residency course.

1/These were the 62 schools listed by VA as active, noncollege degree correspondence schools as of April 1979.

2/Occupational Graduate Employment Reports from vocational/technical schools submitted to VA as of June 1979 for the 2-year period ended in February 1977 (for most schools).

<u>Course number</u>	<u>Course title</u>	<u>Number who entered training</u>	<u>Percent of those who began a course who were sent survey ques- tionnaires</u>	<u>Percent of those sent question- naires who were included in employ- ment rate computation</u>	<u>Percent of those who began a course and were counted in employment rate computation</u>
311	Electronic technicians	16,633	12.4	60.5	7.5
427	Real estate and insurance	1,874	18.2	25.1	4.6
510	Air-conditioning and refrigeration	6,113	34.0	44.6	15.2
553	Electronic and other communication mechanics and repairmen	10,432	24.2	39.5	9.6
571	Automobile or motor vehicle mechanics and repairmen	9,359	17.5	25.9	4.5
629	Heavy equipment operation (combination correspondence and residency course)	352	88.9	85.0	75.6
Six courses combined		44,763	20.0	44.1	8.8

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

Over \$1 billion in VA educational assistance has been paid for flight and correspondence training for veterans since the current GI bill was enacted in 1966. However, based on data obtained from IRS and FAA, most veterans in our sample were not working in full-time employment in the occupational categories for which they were trained.

The legislative history of the 50-percent job placement requirement suggests that the Congress intended that (1) at least half of the veterans completing a vocational objective course would obtain employment in the occupational category for which the course was designed to provide training and (2) the qualifying employment used in the 50-percent job placement computation be full time rather than part time (avocational).

We analyzed occupational data reported on 1977 Federal income tax returns by representative samples of veterans who completed flight or correspondence training courses during the 5-year period 1972 through 1976. Our analysis disclosed that only 16 percent of the flight-trained veterans and only 34 percent (using liberal criteria) of the correspondence-trained veterans had full-time occupations directly related to their training. Occupational data and other information contained in FAA's files as of June 1979 corroborated the IRS occupational data for flight-trained veterans.

The employment survey reports used to monitor compliance with the 50-percent job placement requirement are lacking in several respects. These reports (1) do not distinguish between veterans and nonveterans, (2) only include graduates in the computation of the employment rate, and (3) do not distinguish between full-time, part-time, and occasional work in computing the employment rate. Reports for correspondence schools showed that very few of the persons entering the training were included in the computation of the employment rate, largely due to very low completion rates for the courses. Also, as noted above, our sample of veterans showed low percentages of full-time employment, indicating that much of the related employment is part time or occasional.

In summary, our findings support VA's contentions that:

- Flight and correspondence training programs have not achieved their intended purpose--they have not led to continuing substantial employment for most trainees.
- Flight and correspondence courses tend to serve avocational, recreational, or personal enrichment, rather than basic readjustment and employment objectives.
- The employment survey reports used to monitor compliance with the 50-percent job placement requirement are lacking in several respects.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONGRESS

We recommend that the Congress adopt VA's legislative proposal to terminate GI bill benefits for flight and correspondence training. However, if these programs are not eliminated, other legislative action should be taken to modify and clarify the 50-percent job placement rule to

- include a minimum acceptable completion rate for vocational objective courses,
- require that 50 percent of the veterans and other eligible persons who complete vocational objective courses obtain employment in the occupational category for which training was received, and
- require that such employment constitute the veteran's primary vocational pursuit and major source of occupational income.

DETAILS ON SAMPLE SELECTION

As part of the study of VA flight and correspondence training programs, we compared the occupations for a sample of veterans with the training for which they received educational assistance. The sample of veterans used in making the comparison was selected by VA.

At our request, VA selected (using accepted statistical practices) a sample of 1,000 veterans from a total population of 212,340 persons who had completed flight training and the six most frequently taken correspondence courses from 1972 through 1976. A total of 750 veterans were selected from the six correspondence courses (125 from each course), and 250 veterans were selected from flight training courses. The courses and the populations from which the samples were taken are as follows:

<u>Course number</u>	<u>Course title</u>	<u>Population</u>
341 to 347	Flight training	13,114
311	Electronic technicians	13,475
427	Real estate and insurance	13,049
510	Air-conditioning and refrigeration	29,806
553	Electronic and other communication mechanics and repairmen	55,135
571	Automobile or motor vehicle mechanics and repairmen	60,161
629	Heavy equipment operation	<u>27,600</u>
Total		<u>212,340</u>

The population from which the sample was taken is less than the number of veterans trained during the period covered because VA limited the population in several ways to expedite selection and the sample was limited to "completers." For example, only veterans no longer enrolled in any training were included. Also, only veterans whose most recent training was flight training or one of the selected correspondence courses were included in the population.

VA considered a course completed if the course or program objective was completed. Also, a correspondence course was considered completed if the number of lessons "serviced" was equal to the total number of lessons, and a flight course was considered completed if the total paid by VA for the course was equal to or greater than 80 percent of the total charge authorized.

OCCUPATIONAL GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT QUESTIONNAIRE		Form Approved OMB No. 75-20555 REPORTS CONTROL SYMBOL 25-12
IMPORTANT-Read instructions on reverse carefully before completing this questionnaire.		
1. WERE YOU ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE U.S. WHEN YOU COMPLETED THIS COURSE?		
☐ YES (If "YES," no further questions need to be answered) ☐ NO (If "NO," continue to question 2A)		
2A. SINCE COMPLETING THIS COURSE OF TRAINING, HAVE YOU EVER WORKED IN AN OCCUPATION DIRECTLY RELATED TO THIS TRAINING?		
☐ YES (If "YES," complete items 2B and 2C and then skip to item 3A) ☐ NO (If "NO," continue to question 3A)		
2B. OCCUPATION AND MOST IMPORTANT DUTIES OR ACTIVITIES	2C. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THAT EMPLOYER	
3A. SINCE COMPLETING THIS COURSE OF TRAINING HAVE YOU EVER WORKED IN A CLOSELY RELATED JOB COMPARABLE IN LEVEL TO THE TYPE OF WORK FOR WHICH THIS COURSE PROVIDED TRAINING? (Answer "yes" only if the skills you have used from this course are essential for satisfactory performance of the "closely related" job.)		
☐ YES (If "YES," complete items 3B and 3C and skip to item 5A) ☐ NO (If "NO," continue to question 4A)		
3B. OCCUPATION AND MOST IMPORTANT DUTIES OR ACTIVITIES	3C. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THAT EMPLOYER	
4A. SINCE YOU ANSWERED "NO" TO QUESTIONS 2A AND 3A, ABOVE, HAVE YOU BEEN AVAILABLE FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE TYPE OF WORK FOR WHICH THIS COURSE PROVIDED TRAINING?		
☐ YES (If "YES," skip to item 5A) ☐ NO (If "NO," complete item 4B)		
4B. CHECK THE BOX BELOW WHICH BEST EXPLAINS WHY YOU HAVE NOT BEEN AVAILABLE FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THIS TYPE OF WORK		
☐ (1) I TOOK THE COURSE FOR PERSONAL ENRICHMENT, VOCATIONAL OR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY ☐ (2) I HAVE CONTINUED MY SCHOOLING ☐ (3) I BECAME DISABLED AND CAN NOT DO THIS TYPE OF WORK		
☐ (4) I BECAME PREGNANT, CAUSING ME TO FOREGO A NEW CAREER ☐ (5) I WAS UNWILLING TO MOVE TO A NEW LOCALITY TO TAKE AN AVAILABLE JOB		
☐ (6) MY MARITAL STATUS CHANGED, CAUSING ME TO FOREGO A NEW CAREER ☐ (7) OTHER REASON (Specify)		
5. REMARKS		
6A. SIGNATURE OF GRADUATE	6B. DATE SIGNED	6C. GIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER WHERE YOU CAN BE REACHED
THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION. PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE IN THE ENCLOSED, PRE-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. PLEASE MAIL IT TODAY.		
TO BE COMPLETED BY SCHOOL		
DATA PROVIDED BY		
☐ QUESTIONNAIRE ☐ INTERVIEW ☐ SCHOOL RECORDS		
DATA AUTHENTICATED BY (Signature and Title of school official)		DATE

APPENDIX II

APPENDIX II

(Insert school name and address or letterhead)

NAME OF GRADUATE

ADDRESS OF GRADUATE

School records show that you completed the following course on the date shown
TITLE OF COURSE (Program) DATE COMPLETED

We are required by Public Law 93-508 to obtain information for all persons completing the course identified above. This information will be provided to the State approving agency which approves courses for veterans training under the GI bill. It may also be made available to certain agencies of the Federal government.

THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE WILL BE USED FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY AND YOU WILL NOT BE IDENTIFIED IN REPORTS PREPARED FROM THESE DATA.

Please provide answers to questions on the other side of this page. The instructions for each question are given below. If your address has changed from the one shown above, please give your new address in item 5 (Remarks).

- Question 1: This question is intended to identify only those persons who were on active duty in the Armed Forces of the U.S. at the time they COMPLETED this course. Persons answering "YES" to question 1 should not complete the remainder of the questionnaire but should return it in the enclosed, pre-addressed envelope.
- Question 2: This question is intended to identify persons who have worked in the specific occupational category for which the course was designed to provide training.
- Question 3: This question is intended to identify persons who have worked in an occupational category of comparable level which is closely related to the occupational category for which the course was designed to provide training. You should answer "YES" only if the skills you have used from this course are essential for satisfactory performance of the "closely related" job. (For example: A keypunch operator is not a closely related job for a computer operator course; a local delivery truck driver is not a closely related job for a large diesel tractor trailer operator course.)
- Question 4: This question is intended to identify persons who have not been available for employment in a directly related or closely related occupational category or who have been unwilling to accept a reasonable offer of such employment.

PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION - This report is authorized by law (38 U.S.C. 1673 and 1723). While you are not required to respond, your cooperation is needed to make the results of this survey comprehensive, accurate and timely. This information will be used to determine the effectiveness of a portion of the VA's educational benefits program. Responses which are submitted may be released to the VA or to other agencies of the Federal Government as permitted by law.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION		REPORTS CONTROL SYMBOL 22-12	
OCCUPATIONAL GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT REPORT (Schools)			
IMPORTANT —Carefully read instructions on reverse before completing this form			
NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL		SCHOOL TELEPHONE NO. (Include Area Code)	ENTRY
		NAME OF COURSE (Program)	
PERIOD COVERING PERSONS COMPLETING OR DISCONTINUING TRAINING			FOR VA USE ONLY CARD NO.
FROM	TO		1
LINE NO.	DESCRIPTION		
1	PERSONS WHO COMPLETED OR DISCONTINUED TRAINING		2-6
2	NUMBER WHO DID NOT COMPLETE COURSE (Including persons on active duty)		7-11
3	REMAINDER (Line 1 minus Line 2)		12-16
4	PERSONS WHO COMPLETED COURSE WHILE IN RECEIPT OF VA EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE AND WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE U. S.		17-19
5	REMAINDER (Line 1 minus Line 4)		20-24
6	PERSONS TO BE SURVEYED (If Line 3 is 100 or less, use Line 3. If Line 3 is greater than 100, sampling may be used. Persons discovered to be in service will be replaced by others)		25-29
7	UNABLE TO CONTACT		30-31
8	PERSONS CONTACTED (Line 6 - Line 7)		32-37
9	NO RESPONSE (Including refusals)		38-40
10	TOTAL RESPONDENTS (Line 8 - Line 9)		41-45
11	MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE RESPONSE FOR PERSONS CONTACTED (Line 8 × .60) (Round to nearest whole number)		46-49
12	RESPONSE BASE ADJUSTED FOR RESPONSE RATE (Enter number from Line 10 or Line 11, whichever is greater)		50-54
13	EXCLUDED RESPONSES—TOTAL		55-59
	A. DISABLED		59-61
	B. IN TRAINING		62-64
	C. PERSONAL ENRICHMENT, VOCATIONAL OR RECREATIONAL		65-67
	D. PREGNANT		68-70
	E. CHANGE IN MARITAL STATUS (cannot start new career)		71-73
	F. UNWILLING TO MOVE TO NEW LOCALITY		74-76
	G. OTHER VALID REASONS		77-79
14	PERCENT OF RESPONSES USED (Line 10 - Line 13 divided by Line 10) (Round to nearest tenth of percent)		80-81
15	RESPONSE BASE FURTHER ADJUSTED FOR EXCLUSIONS (Line 12 × Line 14) (Divided by 100) (Round to nearest whole number)		82-87
16	EMPLOYED IN TYPE OF WORK FOR WHICH TRAINED		88-92
17	EMPLOYED IN A CLOSELY RELATED TYPE OF WORK WHICH REQUIRES SUBSTANTIAL USAGE OF SKILLS LEARNED IN THIS COURSE		93-97
18	PERCENT EMPLOYED IN THE SAME TYPE OF WORK (Line 16 divided by Line 15) (Round to nearest tenth of a percent)		98-101
19	PERCENT EMPLOYED IN THE SAME OR A CLOSELY RELATED TYPE OF WORK (Line 16 + Line 17 divided by Line 15) (Round to nearest tenth of a percent)		102-106
SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF SCHOOL OFFICIAL		DATE	
CERTIFICATION BY STATE APPROVING AGENCY—This report has been checked and we find that it ☐ Does ☐ Does Not support at least a student employment level in the same or a closely related type of work for which trained.			
SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF STATE OFFICIAL		DATE	
FOR VA USE ONLY	COURSE CODE (100-109)	FACILITY CODE (110-115)	NO. NUMBER (116-119)

VA FORM 22-8723
OCT 1978SUPERSEDES VA FORM 22-8723 MAY 1975
WHICH WILL NOT BE USED

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE OCCUPATIONAL GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT REPORT (SCHOOLS)

NOTE: The schools will submit to the State approving agencies employment questionnaire data for individual vocational courses.

LINE 1—Enter on this line the number of persons who completed or discontinued training in the course during the stated time period. Persons will be identified as having discontinued training if they stopped training during the two year report period without completing the course and had not resumed training by the end of the cited two year period.

LINE 2—Enter on this line the number of persons reported on line 1 above who are in the "discontinued training" category.

LINE 3—Enter on this line the difference between the numbers reported on lines 1 and 2.

LINE 4—Enter on this line the number of persons included on line 3 who were on active duty in the Armed Forces at the time they completed training in this course while receiving VA educational assistance allowance.

LINE 5—Enter on this line the difference between the numbers reported on lines 3 and 4.

LINE 6—Enter on this line the number of persons to be surveyed. This will be the same as the entry on line 5 unless that number exceeds 300. If the entry on line 5 does exceed 300, the number to be entered on line 6 may be developed in accordance with sampling instructions or the entire number from line 5 may be used. Persons in the sample discovered to be in service will be replaced by other non-service persons.

LINE 7—Enter on this line the number of persons in the survey (line 6) who were not contacted by the school. (Reasonable efforts must have been made by the school to contact all persons included in the survey.)

LINE 8—Enter on this line the difference between the numbers on lines 6 and 7.

LINE 9—Enter on this line the number of persons included on line 8 who did not respond or who refused to provide the requested information. The "no response" category will include persons who presumably were reached through the mail (the questionnaires were not returned as undelivered by the post office) but who did not respond.

LINE 10—Enter on this line the number of persons included on line 8 who provided the requested information or for whom the necessary information already was available in the school files (line 8 minus line 9).

LINE 11—This line is to be used only if the response rate attained (line 10 divided by line 8) is less than .60. When this occurs, compute the entry for line 11 by multiplying the entry on line 8 by .60 and rounding to the nearest whole number.

LINE 12—Enter on this line the number from line 10, except if a larger number is on line 11 enter the number from line 11.

LINE 13—Enter on this line the number of persons who are to be excluded from the analysis because the response established that the person completing the course has not been available for employment in the type of work for which the course provided training, or has unreasonably refused to accept such employment. In order to exclude a response on this basis it is necessary that the information obtained in the survey clearly establish that the person has not been available for such employment since completing the course or that the person has unreasonably refused offers of such employment. Any exclusions reported on line 13 will be reported under the applicable reason listed under line 13. The entry on line 13 must equal the sum of the entries for those specific reasons. Note: In no instance will more than one reason for exclusion be reported for a person in the survey. If two or more reasons are listed on the questionnaire, only the reason with the lowest number will be listed.

LINE 14—The entry on this line will be derived by subtracting the entry on line 13 from the entry on line 10 and dividing the difference by the entry on line 10. Multiply the quotient by 100 and round the percent to the nearest 10th of a percent.

LINE 15—Enter on this line the response base which has been further adjusted by allowing for deletion of exclusions. This computation has the effect of allowing for exclusions among any non-respondent added to the response base in line 12 above, at the same rate that exclusions occurred among the respondents. This entry will be derived by multiplying the entry on line 12 by the entry on line 14 and dividing by 100. Round to the nearest whole number. (Example: $145 \times 67.6 = 98$.)

LINE 16—Enter on this line the number of respondents who have been employed in the specific occupational category for which the course was designed to provide training.

LINE 17—Enter on this line the number of respondents who have been employed in a closely related occupational category which requires a high degree of use of skills learned from this course. Respondents will be included in this entry only if the skills used from this course are essential for satisfactory performance of the "closely related" job.

LINE 18—Enter on this line the percent of respondents employed in the same type of work for which trained. Compute the entry for this line by dividing the entry on line 16 by the entry on line 15 and multiplying the quotient by 100. Round the percent to the nearest 10th of a percent.

LINE 19—Enter on this line the percent of respondents employed in the same type of work for which trained, or in a closely related type of work. Compute the entry for this line by dividing the sum of the entries on lines 16 and 17 by the entry on line 15 and multiplying the quotient by 100. Round the percent to the nearest 10th of a percent.

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